

POLITICAL ROTTENNESS.

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N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

According to testimony, given before the Mæzet committee, Friday, 19th, the dead, as well as the living, must pay tribute when Tammany is in power. Witnesses were put on the stand to prove that one undertaker gets the job to bury the great majority of those who die at two hospitals by paying \$3 a body to employees of the hospital for sending him information of death before official notification is sent to relatives. Besides this, it was shown that tribute from the dead is still being collected, and only two employees of the hospitals have been discharged so far, although others are furnishing advance information of death to the undertaker, and the commissioner of Charities, the matron and three doctors of one hospital know that the traffic is going on. Testimony was also adduced to show that one undertaker buys cheap coffins made for the department of charities, covers them with 65 cents worth of black cloth, and sells them to relatives of the dead for \$35.

If New Yorkers have any sense of decency and honesty, nothing save a revolution in political affairs will satisfy them.

THE BUFFALO CONFERENCE.

This convention is purely a meeting for conference, no person present will be bound by any resolution he does not vote for. The membership of the conference will be secured entirely by invitation, and you are requested to

"The National Conference upon social and political reform, to be held in Buffalo from June 28 to July 4, has obtained an importance unexpected except by its prime movers and those who knew their determination to make it a success. Even its leaders have been surprised to find how many men in different parts of the country have written them, expressing the hope that the conference would launch a new political party, with a distinctively social reform programme. No such ambitious and, for the present, impracticable plan as this is contemplated. The general topic for the discussions is "What to do next?" and the object in view is to bring reformers of different parties, with different measures most at heart, into personal relations with one another, and into some agreement, if possible, as to what measures should be put first, and what methods used to advance the measures which nearly all wish to further. Those in charge of the conference believe that the great need at the present time is the co operation of reformers, and not their further division by the inauguration of a new political party. Only the first two days are to be devoted to the discussion of economic measures, and the remaining four to plans and methods of achieving results. We learn from the Secretary, Mr. Eltweed Pomeroy, of New York, N. J., President of the National Direct Legislation League, that a larger attendance than was at first contemplated is already definitely assured. Among the general committee of the conference are Republicans like Governor Pingree and Booker T. Washington; Democrats like ex-Congressmen Williams, of Massachusetts, and Lewis, of Washington; Populists like Senators Butler and Pettigrew; Prohibitionists like ex-Governor St. John and Mr. E. J. Wheeler; trades unionists like President Gompers and Joseph R. Buchanan, and literary men like Edwin D. Mead and W. D. Howells. All these men, however, have the same spirit, and there is no reason why they should not find more points of agreement than of disagreement."

SOME FIGURES AND FACTS.

THE COUNTRY'S MONEY

Reports show an increase during April 1899 of six million dollars and it is now claimed that we have \$25 49 per capita in circulation. The exact amount of gold May 1st is put at \$701,077 442, a gain of \$6 221 500 during April. As the amount of gold a year ago was only \$617,038,510, the

NEW YORK BANK STOCK

On May 1st, 1899 the number of banks was reduced to 82 with a capital of \$62,364,100, surplus \$79,557,600, total \$141,921,700 book value. The average of sales of stock in 1897 was \$262 per each \$100 of stock for the 89 banks, while the last sales of each of the 82 banks in 1899 shows average sales at \$356.35 for each \$100 of stock. Quite a profitable business.

INCREASING EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS

The total value of exports this year to March 31st, was nearly 243 million dollars as against 209 millions same time last year, which shows for the first time in our history manufactured exports exceeding one third of total exports. While this seems to be a favorable showing for our manufacturers, by reference to the reports of imports it will be found that exports of manufactured goods did not exceed the imports of manufacturers more than 25 per cent, and that the tariff laws of 1897 are blamed for the small imports since then, which accounts to a large extent for the difference.

FOR PURE FOOD.

If Senator Mason shall stir up the pure food question thoroughly and get enough trustworthy evidence together to show Congress the necessity of some immediate comprehensive pure food legislation, which in connection with the local State laws on the subject, will guarantee every citizen that he shall have what he asks and pays for, and that he shall know what he is eating, he will have made better use of his vacation period than most of his colleagues. To tell the truth, he will do the country more good than the average Senator does, through Senate sessions, vacations, and all.

THE THINKERS.

And the salary question! The lowest salaries—paid in the country—secure the inexperienced teachers, though not always the most unfit. The tendency in many country districts is to reduce salaries and to take any teacher who comes along; for all of them are properly licensed to give instruction. How many school boards out of a hundred would advance a successful teacher's salary ten dollars a month rather than let him go to town and be succeeded by a stranger? Do parents and school directors (particularly in the country) realize that acquaintance counts; that the teacher who understands pupils and their surroundings can be more useful than another who may know nothing of them and care nothing about the circumstances of their parents? Even the proprietor of a barber shop recognizes the value of acquaintance and experience and is willing to pay for it. On the other hand, the average school board in the country will not offer the old teacher any inducement that is not as freely offered to the new. Let our teachers speak again.

D. W. WORKING

Elizabeth City Carolinian.—The Carolinian holds that it is the duty of every man to take an interest in politics—in short to be an honest politician. When a man says, "I take no interest in politics," what is he doing? He is abdiquating the sovereignty of an American citizen and there is no succession. The 15,000,000 voters of the United States have as much right to stay away as any one man has. As an excuse a man is sometimes heard to say that politics are dirty. Well, his house would be dirty if he never attempted to clean it. If all citizens refrained from voting we would have anarchy and every man should realize that he contributes to this kind of a result when he takes no part in politics.

THE REMEDY FOR TRUSTS

I have been reading with considerable interest your articles upon trusts and monopolies. Your write up of the workings of those gigantic combinations, where output is curtailed, prices controlled, labor diverted from natural channels, unbalanced trade conditions, then labor thrown out of employment, bringing hard times and losses to all, including even the organizers of the trust itself, shows masterful reasoning, coupled with good understanding. And I wish to heartily second your protests against lobbyists and corporation influence in our legislative and other state affairs.

In fact, believe you have diagnosed the case correctly. But when it comes to the remedy I am afraid you have gone over to the patent medicine counter. For I see you have stated it as your opinion that these evils could never be cured until a new party was formed. Now that is the cure all that has been suggested or tried for every wrong, either real or imaginary, since the days of George Washington.

Hardly a day passes that some new party is not organized, and in some favorable years a half dozen have sprung into life to be nipped by the November frosts.

It is not new parties we want, but new men. Party principles are all right, but personal honesty and integrity are what is lacking.

The real cause is indifference on the part of the voter, for there is not the least doubt in the world but that the American people can have any law they want and have it enforced, too, if they will only arouse themselves. If your hired man plows up all the corn and leaves all the weeds, would you stay at the house and swear at him and let him keep right on, or would you go out and stop him? You would stop him, of course, and if we would take as much interest in our public business as we do in our private affairs, we would soon be able to stop the nefarious work of all these human leeches.

It is a question by itself and one that will have to be solved. And it ought to be solved soon. And the people of this country will probably be better off if it is not made a partisan cry—because trusts and monopolies can prosper under free trade or protection, or the gold standard or free silver, for they have no political or social selfishness.

If every citizen will see that honest and competent men are nominated for legislators, and when a man is doing good work, keep him in office, regardless of party, trusts and monopolies will soon be a thing of the past. But a good man is sent to congress or the legislature and does his full duty, and consequently the corporation in influence is against him. Every railroad attorney and every corporation hiring will be pulling wires to knock him out of a re-nomination; and the farmer stays at home plowing corn or harvesting and the corporation fellows attend the convention and the honest candi-

If the farmers will arouse themselves and take an active part in politics and take the same interest in things that effect them that the corporations do in things that effect them, we can soon rid ourselves of trusts and monopolies. And just as long as the farmers are indifferent and heedless, you will find that they will thrive regardless of any party that happens to be in power, because it is natural to get all you can and keep all you get, and trusts are simply corporations that are organized by men who have that phase of human nature fully developed, and will work it to their fullest capacity unless forcibly restrained.—Charles M'Henry in Wallace's Farmer.

In the recent municipal elections San Francisco has set public opinion agog by adopting some startling innovations. The thing of greatest interest in its new organization is the adoption of the famous "initiative and referendum" which has afforded considerable fun to the scornors of Populist doctrine. The initiative is described as a method by which a certain per centage of the voters may of their own accord, by signing a petition, cause a given subject to be referred for decision to a popular vote, such decision to be final, without the indorsement of the city council or mayor. The referendum provides simply for the referring of questions of popular interest to a direct vote of the people for acceptance or rejection. That sounds like very good American doctrine, too, notwithstanding the shafts of ridicule that have been hurled against it.—Charity and Children (Relig.)

YOUR REMEMBRANCE.

You possibly remember that this country had a general election two years ago last fall. Two big parties, "fit" for the most votes of the people to control the country to carry out certain demands. Each had what they called a platform. Perhaps you never read a platform? Most of the voters certainly never did and most of those who did forgot it at once if they understood it. Well, the democratic platform don't matter, for that party was flimsy. But the republican platform, it should at least be an index to the legislation of the past two years, because that party controlled all branches of government. That platform demanded that the Nicaragua canal be built, owned and operated by the United States government. Did they do it? Have you heard of such an action? It demanded certain changes in the currency. Have you ever heard the rumble of any such change? It called for the independence of Cuba. Is Cuba free or is she not being tyrannized over by a lot of American speculators? It demanded the extension of the civil service law. Instead of which that law has been repealed to a large portion of the government employee. Say, cooing dove of a voter, get the platform and read it and compare it with the actions, just for fun - Appeal to Rason.

KNOWLEDGE IS THE GUIDE TO
POLITICAL PROGRESS

Knowledge is the cause—political progress the effect. Knowledge is the analysis of cause and effect—political action the method of attaining results. —“Uncle Tom’s Cabin” was an educator—“Emancipation” a political effect. —“Common Sense” was an educator—“Revolution” a political effect.

If you would comprehend why political parties as at present constituted fail to achieve results, read the following:

There are six million people in the United States, over ten years of age who cannot read or write. (U. S. Census, 1890)

There are four million children of school age (five to eighteen years), in the United States, who are too poor to attend school.

Fifteen million children of school age (five to eighteen years) attend school on an average of less than one-third of the average school time per annum. (U. S. Com'r of Education.)

One million of these so called children become voters, at each Presidential Election.

There are five hundred thousand business men in the United States, who do not understand the fundamental ethics that apply to their business.

There are one million organized wage earners in the United States, who do not permit the discussion of public policies affecting their happiness in their own councils. They suppress free speech among themselves.

There are several million farmers in the United States, who do not understand the depression in agriculture, and are unaware of the fact that decline in agriculture and concentration of population in cities were the death rattle of the Roman Republic.—Review of Reforms.